

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 02969 061420Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-02 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /053 W
-----123240 061428Z /46

O R 061341Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7162
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2969

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJ: PROMINENT OPPOSITION LEADER'S WIFE DIES OF APPARENT
TERRORIST POISONING

1. THE WIFE OF BLANCO TRIUMVIRATE MEMBER MARIO HEBER USHER
DIED OF APPARENT POISONING MID-DAY SEPT. 5 AFTER DRINKING
FROM ONE OF THREE "GIFT" BOTTLES OF WINE ADDRESSED TO PARTY
LEADERS DAYS PREVIOUSLY.

2. ACCORDING TO BLANCO DELEGATION WHICH CALLED ON POLOFF
SHORTLY FOLLOWING DEATH, BOTTLES WERE FOUND ON BACK DOOR-
STEP OF EX-LEGISLATOR LUIS A. LACALLE HERRERA ON MORNING
OF AUGUST 29. ADDRESSED TO LACALLE, HEBER, AND FELLOW TRI-
UMVIR CARLOS JULIO PEREYRA, THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY NOTE
READING: "THURSDAY THE 31ST AT MID-DAY LET US DRINK TO
THE NATION IN ITS NEW STAGE." NOTE WAS SIGNED "M. DE N."
AS THIS WAS PERIOD OF HEAVY RUMORS REGARDING IMMINENT POLITICAL
CHANGES, RECIPIENTS ASSUMED BOTTLES WERE A FRIENDLY TIP-OFF
OR JEST FROM A PARTISAN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONTEV 02969 061420Z

3. OF THREE BOTTLES, THE FIRST WAS OPENED ON SEPT. 3 BY
LACALLE, BUT THROWN AWAY BECAUSE OF A "PREMONITION" OF HIS
WIFE. SECOND BOTTLE OPENED WAS HEBER'S. WHEN HE WAS
UNEXPECTEDLY UNABLE TO LUNCH AT HOME SEPT. 5, HIS WIFE REPORT-
EDLY DRANK A SMALL AMOUNT ALONE, BECAME VIOLENTLY ILL AND,
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, FELL DEAD. REMAINDER OF THIS BOTTLE

WAS TAKEN BY POLICE, WHILE PEREYRA'S UNOPENED BOTTLE (WITH SMALL HOLE IN CORK INDICATING POSSIBLE INJECTION OF FOREIGN SUBSTANCE) WAS TURNED OVER TO HIGH-LEVEL JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES. RESULTS OF AUTOPSY ARE NOT YET KNOWN. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO LACALLE, PRIVATE LAB TESTS OF BOTTLE HE RECEIVED SHOWED EVIDENCE OF POISON.

4. EARLY MORNING SEPT. 6, AUTHORITIES ISSUED THREE COMMUNIQUE WHICH APPEARED IN ALL MORNING DAILIES SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BLANCOS, INCLUDING FACT THAT BOTTLES CONTAINED HIGHLY TOXIC PHOSPHATE-BASED POISON --FOSDRIN. COMMUNIQUE ALSO CALLED ON POPULATION FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO POSSIBLE SUSPECTS IN CRIME.

5. COMMENT: BLANCO PARTY MEMBERS ARE ALREADY CONVINCED THAT MRS. HEBER WAS VICTIM OF A TERRORIST ACT, AND THAT ITS PERPETRATORS ARE THE ULTRA-RIGHTISTS. THE GOU'S MODERATES, WHO GAINED GROUND OVER THE EXTREMISTS IN THE GEN. PRANTL AFFAIR, NOW FACE ANOTHER CRISIS.THEY MUST MOVE RAPIDLY AND FORCEFULLY BY A POLITICAL ACT AND/OR THROUGH THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE TO PROVE TO DOUBTERS THAT THEY ARE SEEKING THE PERPETRATORS. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE POLICE ARE TAKING THIS CASE VERY RPT VERY SERIOUSLY. WIRE SERVICES ARE GIVING THE STORY HEAVY PLAY. EXILES ABROAD WILL UNQUESTIONABLY SEIZE UPON IT TO ADD ANOTHER BLOT TO URUGUAY'S IMAGE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MONTEV 02969 061420Z

PEZZULLO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, DEPENDENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, POISONS, WINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: 200605260
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: Released in Full by DAVID COX on 05-SEP-07 ;
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MONTEV02969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780362-1212
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780998/aaaaddle.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fe7bfa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1532629
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROMINENT OPPOSITION LEADER'S WIFE DIES OF APPARENT TERRORIST POISONING
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY, BLANCO TRIUMVIRATE, (HEBER USHER, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fe7bfa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014